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Feinwerkbau Modell-65

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16/12/2017 03:55:33



Feinwerkbau Modell-65

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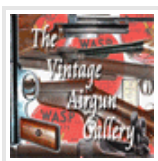
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Feinwerkbau Model-65 FWB65 Air Pistol
Stripdown Video Article Danny Garvin Cutaway
Beeman-Collection

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16/12/2017 03:56:07





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(@garvin)

Curator in Chief

Admin

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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 - Earliest model (1965).

These pics are of a pistol from December 1965 (source: Feinwerkbau), serial 1239.

The FWB65 was first introduced in November 1965 (source: John Griffiths *Encyclopedia of Spring Air Pistols*) and serial numbering started at 1040 (source: Feinwerkbau)

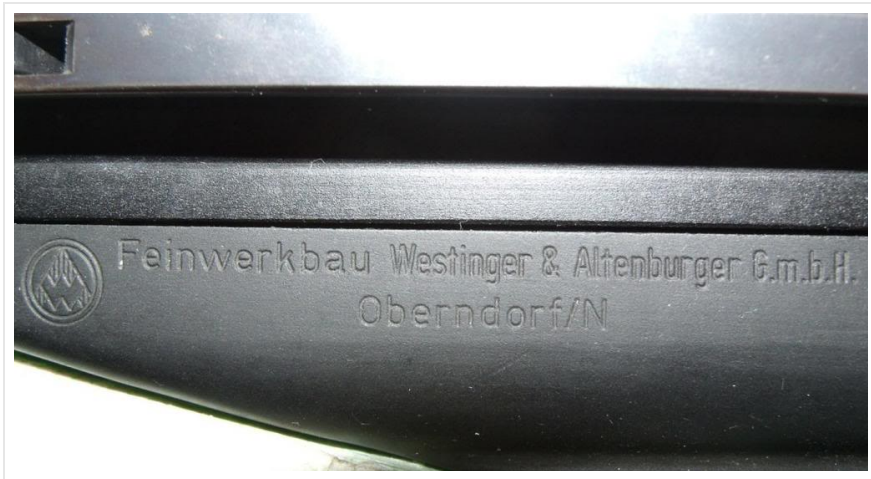
Note that this 1965 pistol has engraved lettering, whereas later models - and all others I've seen apart from one of the very first made - have embossed lettering.

These early models differed from the later versions of the FWB 65 in a number of ways, notably in that they had a small, sprung rearsight, a narrow blued steel trigger, a fixed element front sight, and hand-chequered grips.

Also, the first examples had a very short 'tang' or 'spur', above the web of the hand. On later 'early' models this feature was extended a little rearwards, to bring it roughly level with the vertical sight adjuster knob.

See also a comparison of the early and late model 65 [here](#).

















Later embossed lettering:



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(@garvin)

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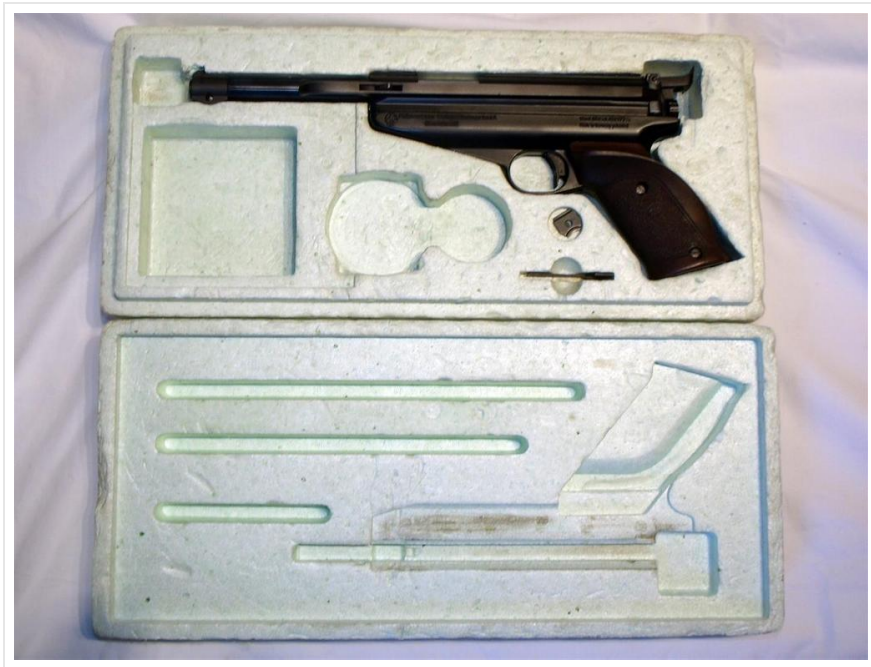
Feinwerkbau Modell-65 - Short-barrelled model (Kurtz, Junior).

This is a mid-production 65 with a short tang - the projection of the frame above the web of the hand - and with the earlier pattern narrow fixed rearsight.

These short-barreled pistols (the barrels were 35mm shorter than usual) were sold in small numbers in Europe (with both short and long tangs) and were imported, apparently in quite large numbers, by Robert Beeman in the USA. Dr Beeman dubbed them the 'Mark 2' - never a designation used by Feinwerkbau itself, which labelled them the 'Kurz'

(short) or 'Junior' model.





This is a later production short-barrelled model with a long tang:





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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 - Second pattern (short tang).





With thanks to Mike for this pic.



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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 - Final shape (long tang).









**Garvin**

(@garvin)

Curator in Chief

[Admin](#)

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Posts: 7011



Feinwerkbau Modell-65 - Comparison of early and later models.

The three pistols in this comparison are:

1. A first model 65 (chequered 'sporter' grip, fixed front sight, narrow blued trigger, and sprung rear sight) with a tapered sleeve barrel weight.
2. A short tang (the projection of the frame above the web of the hand), short-barrelled model (35mm shorter than usual), which has a sleeve barrel weight, narrow, static, cam-adjustable notch rear sight and front sight with replaceable elements. It has an anatomical match grip with adjustable palm shelf fitted although it came originally with sporter grips.
3. A long tang final shape model with no barrel weight and the third-pattern wide rear sight. It has the match grip.

Feinwerkbau said in 2001 that the production dates of the mod 65 were 1965-1998 and that about 145,000 were made. The change from short to long tang frame is thought to have been made around the 99,000 mark.

The 65 was produced before, during, and after both the mods 80 (1977-86) and 90 (1982-92).

Various versions of the pistol came with match, stippled sporter, and even black plastic grips.

The two match grips shown here were made to a slightly different pattern. In the earlier pattern, the thumb rest shelf terminates in a curve whereas in the

later pattern, the shelf is horizontal along its length.

After the FWB 80 came in, in 1977, Feinwerkbau added a second inner spring inside the mainspring to the mod 65.

The mod 65 was based on the design of the sidelever FWB 150 match rifle. The manufacture of the internal parts of this model was remarkably consistent throughout the 30+ years of the 65's manufacture. The service parts (breech seal, piston bumper, trigger safety actuator, steel piston ring) were all interchangeable, as were other parts.

In these pics, note the two different types of match grip. Differences include the shape of the thumb rest shelf and the extent of stippling, for instance to include or exclude the adjustable shelf.













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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 - Article from Airgun Collector.

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84 | Airgun Collector 2

The FWB65: best of breed

Danny Garvin explains why he believes this recent German match pistol – it was made until the 1990s – is collectable, and gives some tips on how to obtain one if you agree with the proposition.

OK, I admit it: I'm a Feinwerkbau 65 collector. I realise that anyone who confesses to collecting the FWB 65 spring match pistol risks being shouted down by those people who scorn collectors who don't regularly shoot each gun in their collection; perhaps all the more so because if ever there was an air pistol made for shooting frequently, this is it.

I collect them in the sense that I have four – one each of the main 65 patterns and another of the early pattern, which was one of the first 200 to be made. Although different to each other, their similarities are much greater than their differences.

The consistency of design is truly remarkable for a pistol that was sold for so many years. Their piston and breech seals, along with other key parts, are interchangeable between the first model 65 produced – serial number 1040 in November, 1965 – and the last one, 145,312 pistols later, in 1993.

To my mind – and this is why I think they are collectable – the FWB 65 (not forgetting its stablemates the models 60 and 90) was the finest spring air pistol ever made.

Its side lever cocking, semi-recoilless

action – a miniaturised version of the FWB 150 rifle, precursor of the ubiquitous 3005 – with its fixed barrel, and the cylinder riding a few millimetres backwards on rails with each shot, is a pleasure to shoot.

You can see where each pellet strikes, the sight picture largely undisturbed by the effect of recoil. The trigger is sublime – light, crisp and predictable. Velocity is relatively high and extremely consistent; manufacturing quality control was impeccable; and the materials used were never less than the best available. Even a fairly poor shot like me can achieve good results with this tool.

As a collector, the pride in ownership is considerable, not just because it is a product of Feinwerkbau GmbH, with all the prestige that maker's name carries. But also because for years it was the world's premier target air pistol, which reigned supreme over the best pistols leading manufacturers such as Walther and Anschütz.



Short and long barrelled FWB 65s



Three models of FWB 65: early, late, mid (top to bottom)

could devise – and with the help of some impressive marksmen and women, it won all the competitions and medals going.

When I was a youthful airgunner in the early 1980s, a keen plinker, collector and – when I had the chance – a hunter, the FWB 65 was the current leading match pistol. It was expensive and far out of reach. In any case, if I'd had the money at the time, I would certainly have bought a vintage airgun.

To look at, it does not grab the collector as especially beautiful. It lacks the highly-

polished external refinement of, say, an all-steel Webley Senior, or the weird wonderfulness of a Westley Richards 'Highest Possible', although the FWB does have a blued steel barrel and a blued steel end piece at the rear of its cast aluminium frame.

But its collectability lies principally in its perfection as a self-contained engine of achievement, in the durability of its component parts, and in the fact that it is no longer made.

There can't have been many manufactured goods made for European consumers at the time that were built to last indefinitely, or at least had such a quality as a by-product of manufacture. While other airgun manufacturers increasingly bought into the understandable, but

wasteful and often cynical, idea of built-in obsolescence, Feinwerkbau made the 65 with the stated aim that it should perform flawlessly across decades and for tens or hundreds of thousands of shots.

One back-of-an-envelope calculation about the 65's lifespan leads to a truly gobsmacking statistic – arrived at conservatively. If approximately two thirds of owners (100,000) have got through 20 tins' worth of pellets (10,000) in the years they have owned their 65, that amounts to an astonishing global total of one billion shots fired.

An air pistol that was still in production just 15 years ago might not be an obvious choice for a collectable. But for the reasons given above, this is not as strange as it seems. If you agree, there are various ways to proceed.

One is to obtain a 65 for occasional use, with an eye to it as an appreciating asset whose value, for the reasons given above, is unlikely to fall despite the large numbers made. They are plentiful on the second hand market, and not particularly expensive.

Another would be to try to find one that is in fine, little used condition, which is an increasingly difficult prospect as these workhorse pistols tend to be sold off by clubs that have finally moved wholesale to PCPs.



This exploded diagram of the FWB 65 shows the complexity of its match trigger and recoilless mechanism

Design evolution

Essential information for the collector is that there were three main stages in the development of the FWB65, reached incrementally, although the most significant design changes were incorporated into the model 80 – which had a reworked trigger, multi-adjustable trigger blade, and removeable barrel weights, plus other lesser changes, and the model 90 – which had a battery-powered electronic trigger. The first pattern of 65 had chequered 'sporter' grips, a fixed element front sight, a small sprung rear sight and a solid blued steel trigger.

The second pattern 65 had replaceable front sight elements and a fixed rearsight with notch adjustable for width. The trigger blade was pressed steel. The third pattern, arrived at after 100,000 or so pistols had been built, had a longer 'tang' overhanging the web of the hand and a slightly wider rearsight.

All three patterns of 65 had a facility that allowed the user to 'suspend' the anti-recoil device, to simulate shooting a firearm, and another to switch the trigger pull from 500g to 1360g in a single adjustment. Extra high front sight elements were included to allow for the higher point of impact that recoil produced.

When the model 80 came out in

1977, it had twin concentric springs, which FWB promised would give 'greater durability'. Models 65 from this point also had two springs. From quite early on, anatomical grips were available. Sporter grips went from hand chequered to stippled walnut, and later in its lifespan, when Feinwerkbau tried to introduce an 'economy' version of the 65, grips were also made in black plastic.

The above list of differences is not exhaustive and when you consider they spanned more than 30 years, they are trivial. The essential form of this pistol was constant throughout.

In the 1970s and '80s, Robert Beeman in the US built on the pioneering efforts of Robert Law and successfully marketed Feinwerkbau and other match air rifles and pistols as precision objects of desire to well-off American consumers. They helped widen perceptions of airguns from cheaply-made toys and youth-oriented BB guns, to luxury items for discerning adults. However, there was already



Types of rear sight: mid, late and early (left to right)

a long tradition in the US of finely-crafted adult airguns, dating back into the nineteenth century and earlier.

At some point, Beeman started to import the 'Junior' short-barrelled version of the FWB 65, which had sold only in small numbers in Germany, although the pistol performed well. He named it the 'Mk2', a label that stuck, although it was never an official FWB designation. These 'shorties' – with barrels 35mm shorter than usual – were known as the 65K, or 'kurz' (short) in Germany. They are scarce today in Europe, although more frequently encountered in the US.

I realise that the FWB spring pistols are not every collector's cup of tea and that they were made too recently for many collectors to be interested. But if you are interested in acquiring one, a steady stream of these pistols comes onto the German market via eGun.de, the auction website, and there seems to be a continuing demand for them, since reasonable examples rarely sell for below €200 (£156). One, advertised on eGun as having been only test fired at the factory, sold for €755 last year – a sum that would buy you some pretty nice vintage airguns.

If you do decide to seek out an FWB 65, you are unlikely to be disappointed. For shooting they are superb, and so rugged that if you want to consider it both a collectable and a shooter, you won't fear putting a few pellets through it from time to time. In fact, when you do, you're unlikely to want to put it down.

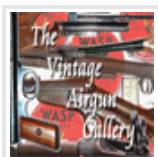


An early polystyrene boxed example

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29/03/2018 17:28:22



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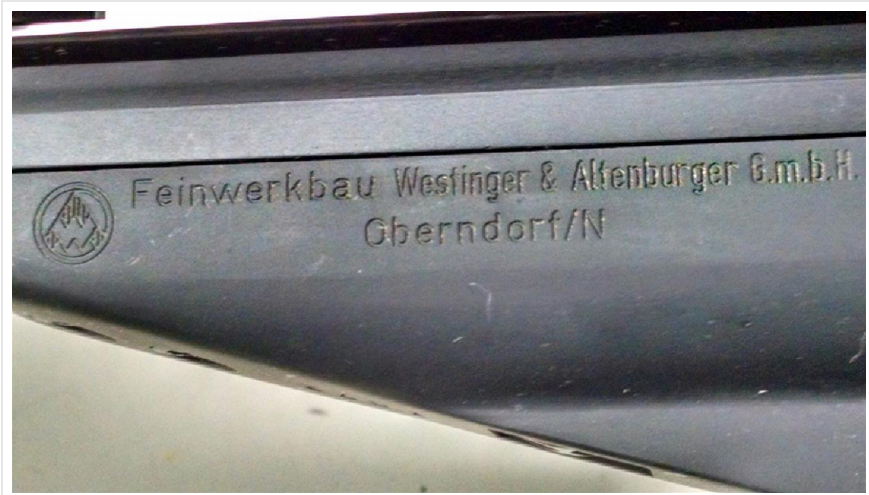
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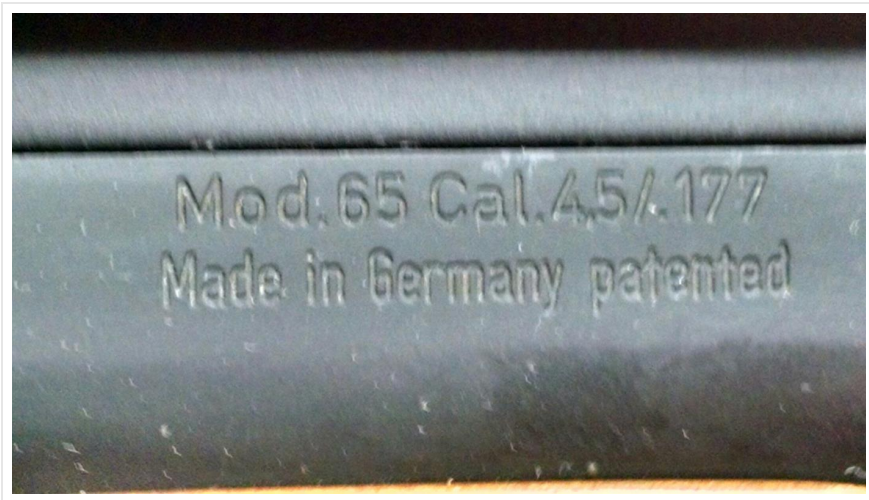
Feinwerkbau 65 - 33rd example made

With thanks to Dave for these pics. According to Feinwerkbau, the serial numbers started at 1040.

It seems to confirm that the earliest FWB65s made had engraved, rather than embossed, inscriptions. See the 199th (200th?) example made, serial no. 1239 ([click here](#)).







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30/04/2019 16:55:37 [🔗](#)



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(@garvin)

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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 stripdown and assembly videos

With thanks to Richard B.

Video by the author of [Newtown Naughty Boy](#).

FWB 65 Strip down



FWB 65 Pistol Assembly



Videos by German vlogger Nebelbrett:

FWB 1:



FWB 2:

FWB65 2



FWB 3:

FWB65 3



FWB 4:

FWB65 3 5



FWB 5:

FWB65 4



FWB 6:

FWB 65 5



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18/09/2020 15:36:28



Customised Feinwerkbau Modell-65s













[🌿 Topic starter](#)

28/09/2020 17:10:22



● **Garvin**

(@garvin)

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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 (sn 38xxx, short tang cased)

Nice example, spotted on eGun.de.





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18/01/2022 16:56:57



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(@garvin)

Curator in Chief

Admin

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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 (2nd pattern, army stickers)

With thanks to Matt.

SERPS seems to stand for South East Regional Pistol Squad and WPA may stand for World Para Athletics.





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27/06/2022 17:53:39



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(@garvin)

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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 Linbrunner custom (with 'absorber')





LP G5 Griffstück N° 89200		
dan wird zum Oberteil passende Griffstück eingedreht	€	40,-
Waffenoberteil kpl. zerlegt/Abzug ausgebaut/Teil ersetzt	€	90,-
Abzugsmechanik neu eingeläpft/Abzug auf Type 400 umg.	€	15,-
1 Satz Robbeventil	€	45,-
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1 Dämpfer	€	8,-
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diverse Kleinteile, Schaftwurzel abfräsen	€	10,-
Waffe montiert und kpl. eingestellt		
1 Absorber montiert, Schussbild schießen	€	90,-
Versandkosten	€	10,-
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je 10 Schuss		

ohne Absorber	1.	143 m/s
V0 mit Absorber	2.	146 m/s



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13/09/2022 17:10:49



Feinwerkbau Modell-65 serial no.1122 (1st pattern, engraved)

More proof that the first FWB65s were engraved, not embossed. This one the 83rd ever made.

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17/08/2023 15:12:56





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(@garvin)

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Feinwerkbau Modell-65 cutaway (Beeman Collection)

Pics copyright Rock Island Auctions.







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